

### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 28-54 are pending in this application. Claims 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44-46, 48, 49, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,147,957 to Nagara et al. (herein "Nagara"). Claims 30, 33, 35-37, 40, 43, 47, 50, and 52-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nagara in view of U.S. patent 6,724,707 to Van Woudenberg et al. (herein "Van Woudenberg").

Applicants and applicants' representative wish to thank Examiners Nguyen and Young for the interview granted applicants' representative on March 20, 2007. During that interview the outstanding rejections were discussed in detail. Applicants' representative also presented comments as to how the claims distinguished over the applied art, reiterating comments from the Response filed January 18, 2007. Applicants representative particularly emphasized that Nagara did not disclose or suggest buffer areas before and after respective blocks having a fixed length, and a start point for a buffer area before a new block not being fixed relative to an existing block preceding the new block.

During the interview the Examiners indicated the claims should be clarified to refer to each buffer area as having a "fixed length", so that the claim language is more consistent. The Examiners indicated such claim amendments considered in view of the remarks previously presented on January 18, 2007 as to distinctions between the claims and the applied art would overcome the current rejections.

Based on that discussion with the Examiners, each of the claims is now amended to consistently refer to a "fixed length buffer area" and "fixed length buffer areas". In view of the previously presented remarks of January 18, 2007, the presently submitted amendments, and the discussion during the interview of March 20, 2007, applicants respectfully submit the claims as written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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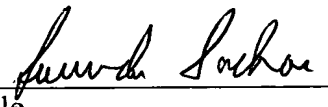
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